



## Introducing Some Friends



Clockwise from roughly 7:00: Jeff, Joseph, Kevin, Tim, and Brian. Derek isn't pictured here because he doesn't have a beard.

Well, who are you?  
Who are you?  
Who, who, who, who?  
I really wanna know . . .

I know there's a place you walked  
Where love falls from the trees  
My heart is like a broken cup  
I only feel right on my knees

I spit out like a sewer hole  
Yet still receive your kiss  
How can I measure up  
to anyone now  
After such a love as this?

~ *Who Are You*  
The Who



Derek: See?  
No beard.

### Brian Wolthuis

As many people do, I tend to throw around words like *community* and *relationship*, but I often struggle to communicate the depths of what I mean by such words. When we (3sixty) talk about *community* or *relationship*, it means much about our life together. In an attempt to communicate what we mean, I want to describe for you what I know and see around me in this community by introducing our board.

As a legal non-profit, we are required to have a board to satisfy federal requirements. I'd prefer to use other labels, such as *lead servants* or *friends*, since this board is not functioning simply in its legal or organizational sense, although we indeed function that way. From our board families spring living definitions-in-action of *community*, *relationship* and *connection*. I hope that 3sixty always embodies and helps show what true *community* is and can be.

As a perfect instance of what I love about this group of friends: during a recent Eighth Day Farm fundraiser, among an army of creative servants, you could find all of our board and their spouses serving—washing dishes until late in the night, waiting tables, hosting, serving drinks. I am proud beyond measure that this is the board that has arisen to serve with me in the neighborhood. They continually support and challenge me to the best path of my own calling of being a servant of Christ and neighbor.

On our website ([www.3-sixty.org](http://www.3-sixty.org)) you can find a bio for each of us, but I want to give you a picture of how they have come into the circle of companions and servants in this venture. We are just a few of the deeply committed families in the neighborhood, and we seem to discover more each month who contribute greatly to the healthy fabric of this neighborhood and city.

I'll share in the order of their appearance on the board of 3sixty.

**Kevin Wolthuis** has been a faithful presence, encourager, and protector of this work from the very beginning and in many ways. He lives the essence of neighbor and servant, often without anyone knowing. He loves to putz in his garage with tools and small engines and he and Jen have 3 kids that my 4 love to be with.

Around the time that Amy and I moved back to Holland (2002) and began our life in the neighborhood, Kevin began his business, Macatawa Technologies. Our relationship has navigated many overlapping realities these last 10 years as brothers and friends: we live 3 blocks apart, we share our professional skills (construction and computers), and in 2005 founded 3sixty out of our house church with long-time friends Peter and Emily Christensen. Our shared life sometimes frustrates both of us, but we always seem to work it out—especially if we can take our old Honda trail bikes for a spin.

As for **Jeff Roessing**, I remember the day in 2006 when he wandered into my backyard, having heard of some of the things we were doing in the neighborhood. He was a student at Western Seminary, asking hard questions about the nature and witness of the Church—many questions I, too, had been asking and trying to work out.

We began a great friendship, and continued to work and dream together about our lives and families and community. In 2009, he dedicated his summer to intern at a few local farms and to serve 3sixty as we developed. Soon after, he joined 3sixty's board and began the farming venture, Eighth Day Farm. He has continued to grow in his passion for farming, the neighborhood, and being a part of the restoration of creation. He and his wife Melissa are diligent friends, neighbors, parents, and farmers. As Eighth Day Farm and its work grows, Jeff is

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## Introducing Some Friends, cont'd.

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now transitioning off our board and developing his own for that work. I am thankful for his time on the board and looking forward to what our partnership will look like in the years to come.

Almost 20 (yikes!) years ago now, **Derek Emerson** had the distinct pleasure of living in Durfee Hall while I was a college freshman and sophomore RA (his wife Maryann was my RD). He has continued his career in many positions at Hope College, and they moved into the neighborhood a few years before we did. He and Maryann have been thoughtful and engaged neighbors, embracing life and hospitality (including their 4 kids and many animals) in their great old home. Derek is an avid reader and committed Catholic who brought great insight and stability to our board until this overwhelming last

year—because of Oliver’s cancer. He has been on leave from the board to be present with his family, but we look forward with them to a new normal and re-engaging community life.

In just 2 years, **Joseph Byrd** has become a dear friend, companion, and confidant. He and I share such different gifts and stories, yet a deep kinship and heart for people and life.

Joseph is a gifted musician, poet, and contemplative servant who cares deeply about people. He is on staff at Zion Lutheran and has helped forge a wonderful partnership for us with the people of that congregation. He has a vast artistic history and credentials (many of which I simply don’t understand), and his experience, study, and recent doctorate in Spiritual Direction is an asset to our life together for which I, and many others, are thoroughly grateful. He and his

wife Grace have two great girls, Naomi and Beatrice.

**Tim Rosin** has been an acquaintance (and even employer) for years, beginning back in the late 90s. We’ve both been through many church and business situations—and periodically overlapped. Most recently (a year ago) we reconnected when they moved into the neighborhood and Melissa (his wife) began to volunteer in our office helping with all things that a startup nonprofit deals with—many of which were horribly neglected because of my ineptitude (and sorry lack of zeal) administratively.

Tim is a dispatcher with Max Transit, and brings extensive experience in church and business leadership. He is a trustworthy servant and wise counselor, exuding a patience that often drives me crazy, but one for which I am always very grateful. It is a delight getting to know them and their cool kids, Josiah and Eden.



Please visit our website, we’ve done quite a bit of work and added many photos of stuff we’ve been doing.



## 3sixty Updates and Needs

**AmeriCorps:** We thank Josh Hauch for his two years as an AmeriCorps Member—he completed his service in October. Josh entered 3sixty’s life in a time of transition and growth, and was instrumental in much of the development of Eighth Day Farm. As he continues to work with the farm, pray with us for life’s next chapter for him. Of note, despite the good work it supported, the AmeriCorps program we were part of was eliminated by the federal government.

**Eighth Day Farm:** With the generosity of Zion Lutheran church, this year they began farming in the city and exploring how best to serve the community. They employed several neighbors, hosted field trips, donated flowers to nursing homes, reduced waste by recycling materials for compost, and gave away produce, in addition to serving local families through offering Community Supported Agriculture shares. In August, the farm held a successful fundraiser and is beginning to apply for

its own nonprofit status. They are in discussion with Holland Town Center as another possible urban farming site. Eighth Day Farm thanks the community of 3sixty for its vision and support this past year.

**Brookhouses:** This summer we were able to come alongside the Brookhouse family in the midst of a difficult season. With the help of church and neighborhood volunteers, we helped paint their newly repaired porch and fully landscaped their front yard.

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3sixty Updates and Needs, cont'd

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**O**liver: He's home, has hair, is back in school, and has finished with the year-long transplant and cycle of treatment! There have been many celebrations (including recent clean scans!) amidst the struggle of the year and he has beaten many odds. We deeply admire the Emersons' faith and honesty throughout.

**L**ooking ahead: We are in the midst of beginning our School (see Joseph's article) and have begun daily vesper prayers (4:30p, weekdays).

We are continuing to develop construction partnerships to grow our capacity to help families and coordinate volunteers in the neighborhood. It's very exciting growth that builds naturally upon things we've

been doing for years. We also hope to launch a community coordinating network (via thecommon.org) and are excited about its possibilities for simplifying communication and empowering neighborly networking as needs arise.

**O**ur needs: A volunteer who loves design/photography/web-media. Josh ably did much of this work for us, but with his transition, we need help to continue to develop our website, our Facebook presence, and media/design stuff in general.

**D**onations: we don't like to ask for help, and certainly don't like to talk about money, but want to be quite clear with you. As a small, grass-

roots, and growing organization, we exist solely through much sacrifice, a few shoe-strings, and the generosity of individuals and organizations who donate their time and money. We have no product to sell, nor benefactors. PLEASE consider joining us and helping us to continue this work. We are SO incredibly thankful for the friends and family who have brought us this far.

You can donate via our website or mail. We'd be more than happy to show you our budget if you ever have questions about how the donations are used. We are a 501c3 organization, so any contributions are tax-deductible.



## The School for Contemplatives in Action

Joseph Byrd

*So abounding will that joy be that it will follow you to bed at night and rise with you in the morning. It will pursue you through the day in everything you do.... The joy and the desire will seem part of each other... though you will be at a loss to say just what it is that you long for. Your whole self will be transformed; your face will shine with an inner beauty; and for as long as you feel it, nothing will sadden you. A thousand miles would you run to speak with another who you knew really felt it and yet when you got there, find yourself speechless! And yet your only joy would be to speak of it... words fruitful, and filled with fire.*

~ The Book of Privy Counsel

**T**his is what's been going on with me, inside and out, as I've ventured toward becoming part of what 3sixty is.

Of course, that's still a tricky one, isn't it? Answering the oft-heard question, "What exactly is 3sixty?" And seeing as quoting from *The Book of Privy Counsel* on a given day isn't exactly the common fare of polite conversation, I've learned to counter that question with this: 3sixty is relationship.

I'm finding that the avoidance of having a pat answer for the work of our small nonprofit is making all the difference. Those who are keen to pursue just what those relationships might be are ready then to engage in

some conversation. Those who aren't, are either as satisfied as they're ever going to be, or they've been left with a kind of bookmark which might eventually lead to another chapter of conversation, or an opening into deeper relationship.

That's what the School for Contemplatives in Action intends to be: a sacred, safe space for relationship, where we might learn to listen to the stories unfolding within ourselves, within each other, and within our community. And all of this is done through the inner work of contemplative prayer and its resulting flow of the energy of the Holy into our lives, and into the lives of those around us.



# 3sixty

living community

A small neighbor-led nonprofit serving in the core city of Holland

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If you'd like to update your mailing address, delete it from our mailing list or receive our newsletter electronically, please visit our website, [3-sixty.org](http://3-sixty.org), and click on Contact. Thanks!

Brian Wolthuis (E 16th)  
Director, Pastor/Builder

Melissa Rosin (E 22nd)  
Administration

Jan Van Auken (North side)  
Bookkeeping

#### Board Members

Joseph Byrd (W 40th)

Derek Emerson (College)

Jeff Roessing (E 18th)

Tim Rosin (E 22nd)

Kevin Wolthuis (E 19th)

As a neighbor-led nonprofit that cares about spiritual growth and justice, we are intentional about relationships, service, and spiritual formation in natural ways. We love to be a catalyst for growth and are present and working together as families; creating momentum for the community and strengthening the city from the inside out.



## The School for Contemplatives in Action, cont'd.

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It's hard to name how this has come about other than to think of the deep goodness of the people in and around 3sixty. And, as the opening quote from the Book of Privy Counsel (a Medieval manuscript which was part of the ancient tradition of Christian contemplative wisdom) indicates, it isn't always easy to name the who or the what of how the School has formed itself. It's been organic, surely, and has grown largely out of the collegiality of my time with Brian Wolthuis, 3sixty's director. To limit it to that isn't either fair or wholly true, but it has been essential.

As I worked toward my Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Direction, and Brian toward ordina-

tion as an Anglican Priest, the natural synergy of those two created a desire for something not at all new, nor innovative for that matter, but something freshly ancient, if you will.

I spent too long alone as a contemplative, and 3sixty has provided a geography of people and ideas that have helped balance me toward health. Brian, if I may speak for him, spent too long in action and a kind of doing, which led toward exhaustion as opposed to peace. The church, and certainly our present-day culture, has often leaned either one way or the other; as opposed to walking the ancient, middle path of living in the space between. I don't know any other way of walking that path

than to listen to each other, and learn to hold that listening in prayer as we suffer through what compassion and community really mean.

All that being said, the School for Contemplatives in Action has begun with daily vespers along with a spate of other opportunities, classes, and retreats which will hopefully invite people toward a joy that "follows you to bed at night and rises with you in the morning. It will pursue you through the day in everything you do." It might sound like a lot, but it's worth it. It has certainly been that way for me. My hope is that it will be for you, too.

You are invited to visit our website at [www.3-sixty.org](http://www.3-sixty.org) for more information, or to contact us.

